

What's New & Happening in Georgia USA for 2026

Explore Georgia Contacts

- **Media:** Cayla Cardwell, Communications Manager, ccardwell@georgia.org
- **Sales:** Jay Markwalter, Deputy Commissioner of Tourism, jmarkwalter@georgia.org

Culture

- **FIFA World Cup 2026™ – Atlanta**

Georgia's capital city of Atlanta will host eight matches, including a semifinal, during the FIFA World Cup 2026™. Georgia will welcome Cabo Verde, Haiti, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Spain, South Africa, Uzbekistan, European Play-Off D Winner, and Intercontinental Play-Off 1 Winner.

With global connectivity, affordable travel offerings, renowned hospitality, and diverse experiences statewide, [**Georgia is the ultimate home base for the FIFA World Cup 2026™.**](#)

Visitors can immerse themselves in the vibrant energy and events in the Host City of Atlanta, easily follow their favorite teams to matches across the country, and enjoy Georgia's pristine beaches, scenic mountains and waterfalls, historic towns, and iconic landmarks during breaks between matches. As the epicenter of soccer in the U.S., Georgia is ready to welcome the world with an unforgettable, seamless experience that will keep Georgia on travelers' minds long after the final match.

- **National Center for Civil and Human Rights – Atlanta**

In November 2025, the [**National Center for Civil and Human Rights**](#) completed a \$57.9 million expansion adding 24,000 square feet of new space, including six new galleries and updates to the signature gallery on the Civil Rights Movement. The updated "Rolls Down Like Water" exhibit on the Civil Rights Movement now includes doubled lunch counter seats, material on Black Power, and a reflection area, exiting into the gallery devoted to Dr. King. "A Committed Life: The Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Collection" is the Center's gallery devoted to Dr. King and has been totally reimagined. Every year, the Center rotates the artifacts twice a year and will now invite a guest curator for each rotation. The inaugural guest curator is Dr. Bernice King, the youngest child of Coretta Scott King and Dr. King.

- **Tellus Science Museum – Cartersville**

The [**Tellus Science Museum**](#), a Smithsonian affiliate, opened a 20,000-square-foot expansion in November 2025, featuring a permanent exhibit on the evolution of technology and smartphones, plus a 7,500-square-foot gallery for rotating exhibits. The first, "Journey to Space," is open through April 2026, featuring a full-size model of the International Space Station Discovery Lab, highlighting the realities of living and working in space.

- **Trail of Legacy & Lore – Central Georgia**

The self-guided [**Trail of Legacy & Lore**](#) spans more than 90 miles across Athens, Oconee County, Madison, Eatonton, Milledgeville, Gray-Old Clinton, and Macon, with immersive attractions that reflect the best of the region's cultural arts, architecture, and heritage. The trail tells the stories of history, events, and unique architectural, literary, musical, design, and artistic endeavors of periods ranging from the earliest Indigenous communities to Georgia's iconic music scenes of the 1970s and '80s. From the early frontier days and the Civil War to the Civil Rights era,

unforgettable stories and traditions of this region of Georgia connect visitors to the past and are brought to life all along the trail.

Music

- **Trilith LIVE – Fayetteville**

Opening January 2026, [Trilith LIVE](#) is a new 530,000-square-foot entertainment district featuring a 2,200-seat performing arts center, two live-audience soundstages, and a luxury cinema. This addition will bring vibrant live performances, immersive events, and audience-forward programming to South Metro Atlanta. Trilith LIVE is located near Trilith Studios, North America's largest purpose-built movie studio, where some of the highest-grossing blockbusters like "Spider-Man: No Way Home" and "Avengers: Endgame" were filmed.

- **Akins Ford Arena – Athens**

Athens has once again amped up its thriving music and entertainment scene with the new [Akins Ford Arena](#), bringing even more concerts and events to the city. Just steps from the downtown's lively center, the state-of-the-art venue features interactive displays of the Georgia Music Collections from the University of Georgia with memorabilia representing more than 200 legendary Georgia artists, immersing visitors in the local culture and creative energy.

Outdoors

- **Georgia Safari Conservation Park – Madison**

[Georgia Safari](#) is the state's first overnight safari park (and one of the only in the U.S.) where visitors can stay in luxury tents and a giraffe suite, while helping protect endangered animals. Visitors to the 530-acre refuge can take a tour riding in an open-air safari vehicle and learn about the unique traits of wild and exotic species from the guides who care for them. For an unforgettable stargazing experience, stay in a luxurious one- or two-bedroom canvas tent overlooking a private savanna. For the ultimate immersive experience, spend the night in the Giraffe Suite, which offers panoramic views into the state-of-the-art giraffe and rhino barn.

- **Jekyll Island**

Jekyll Island's [National Historic Landmark District](#) is one of the largest ongoing restoration projects in the Southeastern USA, drawing visitors from around the world. The newly restored [Great Dunes](#) golf course preserves the island's classic Gilded Age character while enhancing playability and sustainability through modern upgrades, including a pioneering brackish water irrigation system that reduces freshwater consumption, minimizes chemical use, and ensures long-term environmental resilience. In Spring 2026, the Jekyll Island Campground will expand with new amenities and a collection of glamping-style yurts.

Road Trips

- [Worthy Georgia Detours](#)
- [South Georgia Detours](#)

Food

- [Atlanta MICHELIN Guide](#)